



1068

SUPERMAN
★ SUPERSTARS ★

SUPERMAN **ACTION** *COMICS*



SIMONE
BARROWS
MIKI
LOKUS

ALSO FEATURING:
**LOIS AND
CLARK:**
IN LOVE. AT WORK.

ROWELL · TORMEY · FAJARDO JR.

DAWN OF
DC

Handwritten signatures and initials at the bottom right corner.

KEEPING HEROES IN LINE WITH A SNAP OF HER FINGERS!

JENNY SPARKS



THE LEADER OF
THE AUTHORITY
RETURNS FOR
THE 21ST CENTURY IN
AN ACTION-PACKED
NEW SERIES!

From Eisner Award winner

TOM KING

With art by

JEFF SPOKES



**BLACK
LABEL**

Ages 17+

7 ISSUES
AUGUST

THE PAST.

IT'S A HEAT WAVE
IN METROPOLIS.

DOGS
PANT ABOVE
STEAMING
ASPHALT, AND
THE CITIZENS
SWEAT EVEN
WITH THE AIR
CONDITIONER
BLASTING.

AND THERE IS
A SHADOW IN
THE OTHERWISE
EMPTY SKY.

EIGHTY THOUSAND
TONS. SUSPENDED HALF
A MILE IN THE SKY.

AND STANDING ON
ITS ASKEW SURFACE...

...A BEING WHO HAS
ALREADY SURVIVED ONE
PLANET'S ANNIHILATION.

AND MAY WELL BE
WITNESS TO ANOTHER.

WHILE HIS TWO
CLOSEST FRIENDS
CLING DESPERATELY
TO THE EDGE,
FINGERS ALREADY
ACHING, ALREADY
PERSPIRING.

DOES HE SAVE
THEIR LIVES...

...OR THE HUNDREDS OF
THOUSANDS BELOW?

WHILE AN ALIEN WITHOUT
CONSCIENCE PUTS
TRAGEDY IN MOTION.

GOOR?

YES,
MY LORD
GRUNHAR?

FOR THE
GLORY AND
HONOR OF OUR
BENEVOLENT
RACE--

--DROP THE
WARSHIP.

AS YOU
COMMAND,
MY LORD.

AND THE LAST
SON OF KRYPTON...

....STARES INTO THE
UNTHINKABLE DEATH OF
METROPOLIS FROM
A BIRD'S EYE VIEW.

DC COMICS PRESENTS A LOST TALE FROM
EARLY IN SUPERMAN'S INCREDIBLE CAREER:

SUPERMAN AND THE CHALLENGE FROM THE STARS

DEDICATED TO TWO OF THE ALL-TIME GIANTS:
DENNY O'NEIL AND NEAL ADAMS!

PART TWO OF THREE

FALLING LIKE RAIN FROM A METALLIC STORM

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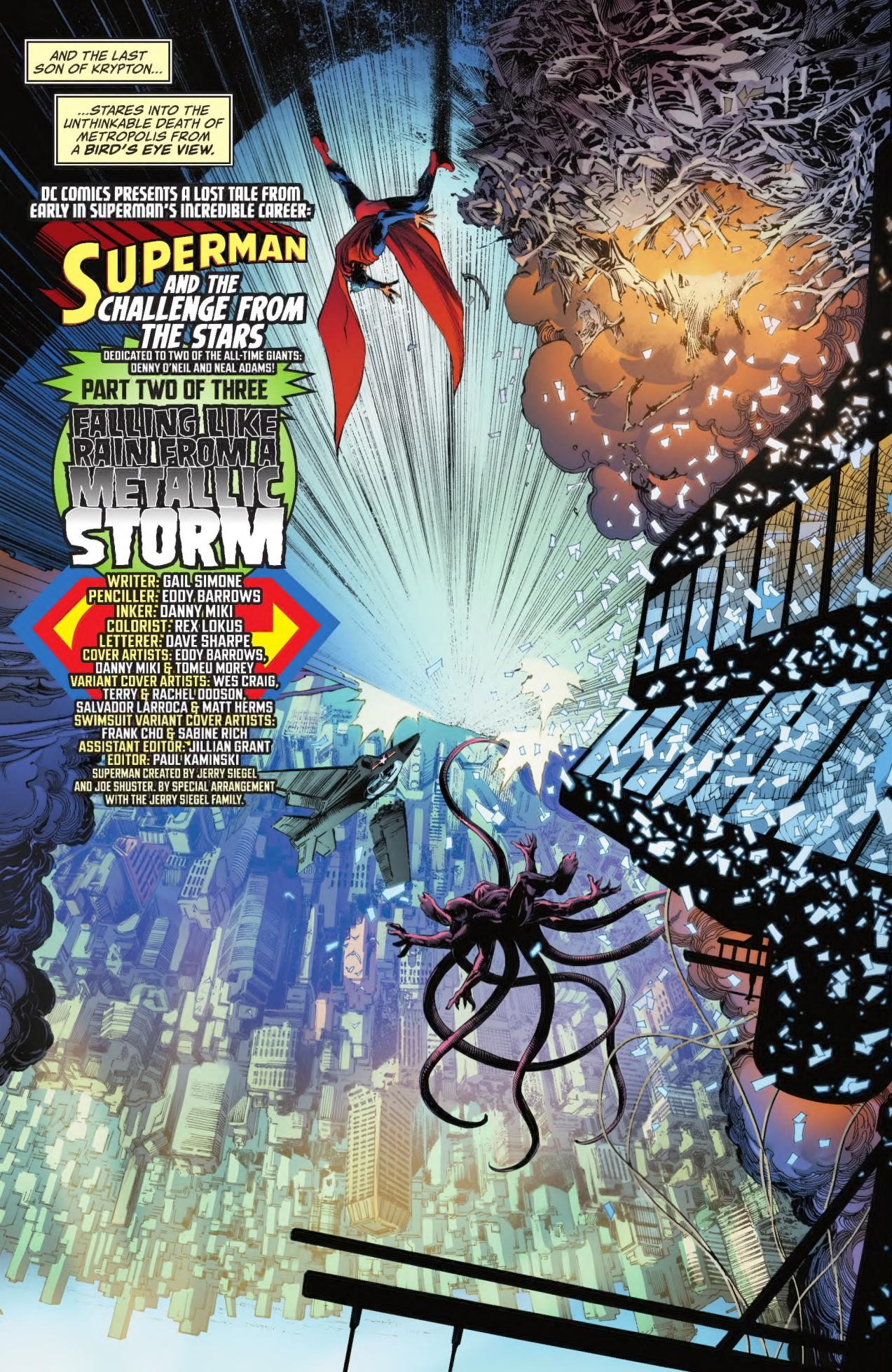
ASSISTANT EDITOR: JILLIAN GRANT

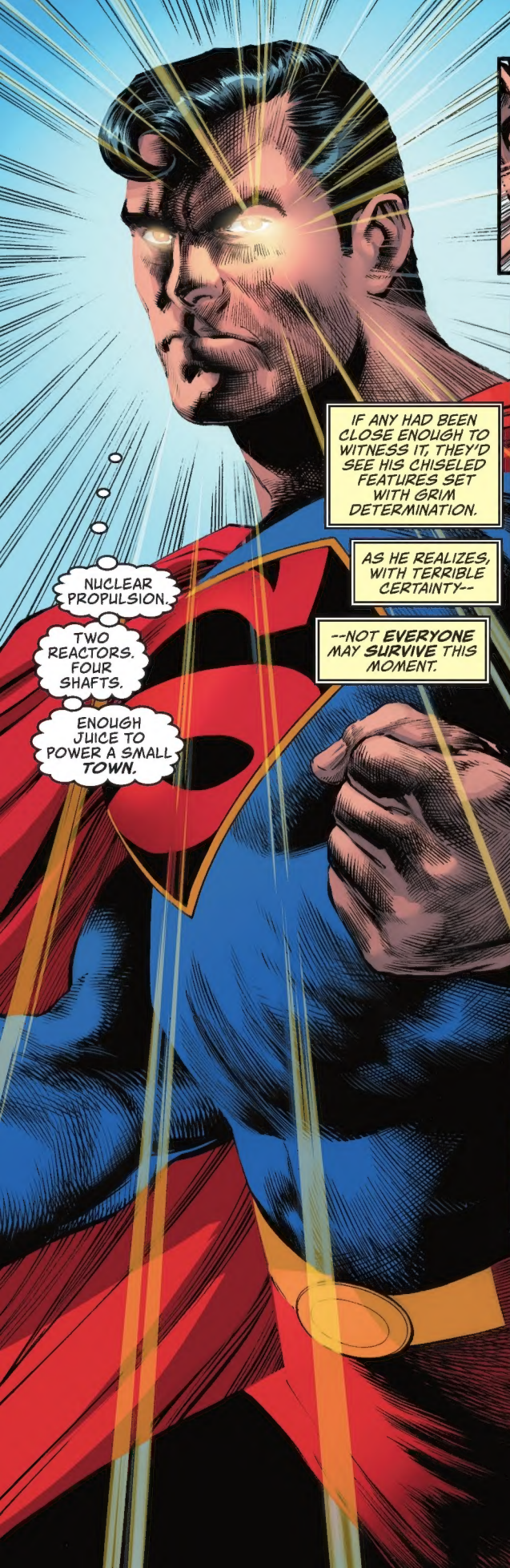
EDITOR: PAUL KAMINSKI

SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL

AND JOE SHUSTER, BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY.





AND ENOUGH FISSIONABLE MATERIAL TO POISON HALF THE STATE.

AND IF I LIFT IT, IF I EVEN CAN LIFT IT...

...THE SUPERSTRUCTURE WILL CRACK LIKE THE TITANIC UNDER ITS OWN WEIGHT.

IF ANY HAD BEEN CLOSE ENOUGH TO WITNESS IT, THEY'D SEE HIS CHISELED FEATURES SET WITH GRIM DETERMINATION.

AS HE REALIZES, WITH TERRIBLE CERTAINTY--

--NOT EVERYONE MAY SURVIVE THIS MOMENT.

NUCLEAR PROPULSION.

TWO REACTORS. FOUR SHAFTS.

ENOUGH JUICE TO POWER A SMALL TOWN.

WHILE THE DAUGHTER OF A GENERAL HELPS THE ONLY WAY SHE CAN.

MS. LANE. I CAN'T HOLD ON.

JIMMY. HANG ON! THAT'S AN ORDER!

AND THE HUMANS BELOW THINK HELPLESSLY OF THEIR LIVES' REGRETS.

HE...I MEAN SUPERMAN...HE'S GOT THIS, RIGHT, MR. PIERCE?

LET'S HOPE, TERRY. BUT A PRAYER WOULDN'T HURT, EITHER.

STEEL-BLUE EYES SAY WORDLESSLY THAT A DECISION HAS BEEN MADE.

AND RIGHT OR WRONG, THERE'S NO TURNING BACK.

WELL.

CITY I LOVE. MY HOME.

HERE WE GO.

WHILE IN THE STRATOSPHERE ABOVE, MALICIOUS ALIENS BET ON THE BODY COUNT FOR SPORT.

YOUR CHOSEN CHAMPION SEEMS TO HAVE FROZEN, XALT.

I WOULD SAY YOU CHOSE POORLY. PERHAPS A COWARD, AFTER ALL.

HE IS NO COWARD, GRUNHAR. I LOOKED IN HIS EYES.

YOU GAVE HIM AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK.

YES. HOW UNFORTUNATE THAT THE WEALTH OF YOUR PLANET, AND THE ENSLAVEMENT OF YOUR RACE, ARE THE SPOILS OF THIS WAGER, XALT.

GOOR. UNLEASH CALAMITY.

AS YOU COMMAND, MY LORD.

K L K

AND WITH A PRESSING OF A SWITCH, GRAVITY RETURNS WITH A VENGEANCE.

OH MY GOD.

MS. LANE, WE'RE DROPPING!

WHOOOSH

OKAY,
THINK,
CLARK.

IF I HOLD IT
FROM THE MIDDLE...
THE ENDS WILL SNAP
LIKE A BREAD-STICK.

HULL'S
ALREADY
HEATING
UP.

PEOPLE OF
EARTH. WE, THE
ENDLESSLY GENEROUS
PEOPLE OF THE PEACEFUL
PLANET OF GORATHIA,
PRESENT FOR YOUR
ENJOYMENT...

...THE
CHALLENGE
FROM BEYOND
THE STARS!

SUPERSPEED,
I LOVE YOU.

NOW
TO APPLY *JUST*
ENOUGH SUPERBREATH
TO COOL THE METAL
DOWN WITHOUT MAKING
IT BRITTLE.

WEST RIVER'S
TOO FAR, HAS TO
BE THE *BAY*.

PLEASE.

LET THIS
WORK.



CONTACT.

THE STALWART CREW OF THE U.S.S. BATTLE CREEK SUFFERED MANY IMPACT INJURIES, FROM MINOR ABRASIONS TO BROKEN BONES.

SUB-SURFACE BASEMENTS, PARKING GARAGES, AND SUBWAY TUNNELS FLOODED.

WINDOWS SHATTERED UP TO A HALF MILE AWAY.

PARTS OF THE CITY EXPERIENCED A COMPLETE POWER LOSS.

BUT, WONDER OF WONDERS...

...EVERYONE LIVED.

EVERYONE.

LIVED.

HE'S DEAD, YES?

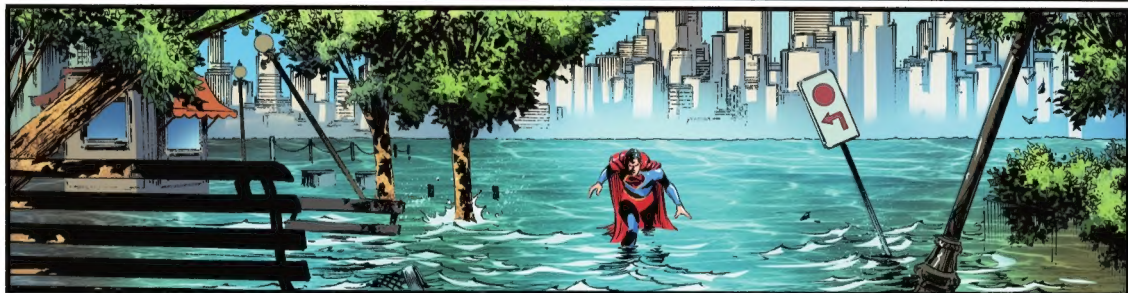
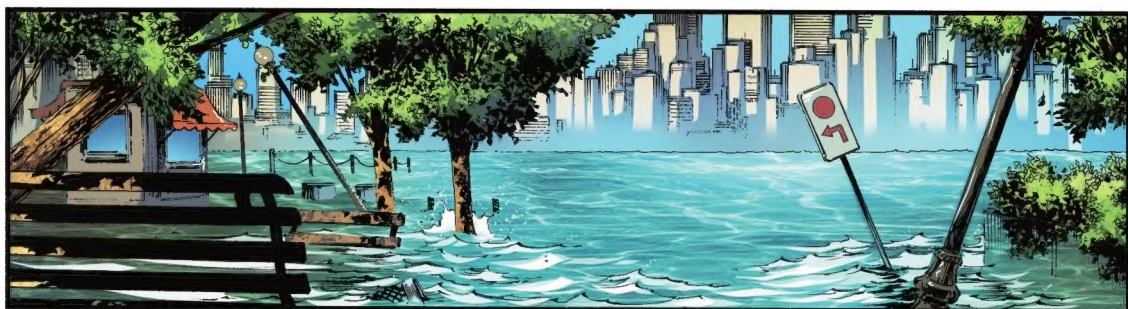
HE HAS TO BE DEAD.

SCANNING, MY LORD.

HE'S ALIVE, RIGHT?

HE HAS TO BE ALIVE.

LOOKING, JIMMY.





IS HE BREATHING?

DOES HE EVEN BREATHE?

ELEVATE HIS LEGS.

WHY, MAN?

I HAVE NO IDEA.

CALL AN AMBULANCE!

FORGET THE AMBULANCE, CALL THE JUSTICE LEAGUE!

CLEAR HIS AIRWAY!



I'M CERTAIN. SO THE NEXT CHALLENGE WILL BE A CHALLENGE OF INTELLECT.

AS YOUR CHAMPION'S SECONDS, YOU ARE GIVEN THE HONOR OF OCCUPATION OF THE SOCIAL LEVEL OF OUR SHIP.

DO YOU ACCEPT?

WELL. IT APPEARS AS IF YOUR BRIGHTLY HUED CHAMPION IS STRONGER THAN WE THOUGHT.

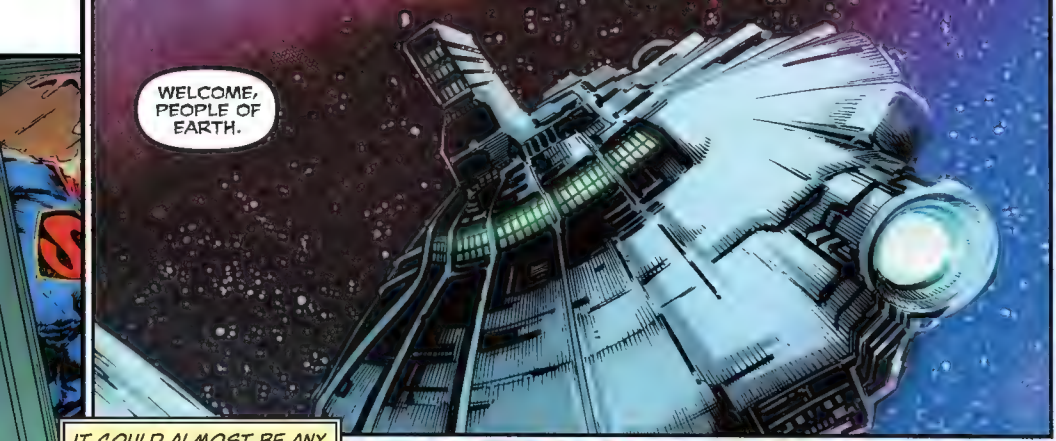
LISTEN, GUY... YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW STRONG SUPERMAN IS.

NOT A CLUE.

WHY, SO WE CAN BE GAWKERS?

NO, JIMMY.

SO WE CAN BE REPORTERS.



WELCOME,
PEOPLE OF
EARTH.

IT COULD ALMOST BE ANY
SPORTS BAR ANYWHERE.

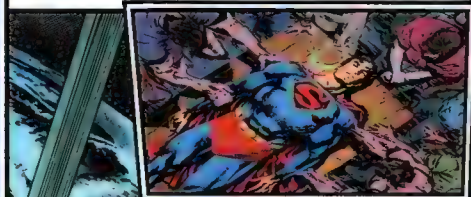
IF YOU DON'T
NOTICE THE
CLIENTELE.



MY LORD
BIDS YOU PARTAKE
OF THE REFRESHMENTS.
THEY ARE SPECIFICALLY
TAILORED TO YOUR
DIGESTIVE NEEDS AND
CONTAIN NO TRACE
OF SENTIENT
SPECIES.

UH.

YUM?



YOU ARE
VALUED GUESTS,
SO YOU HAVE FULL
RUN OF THIS ENTIRE
DECK, WHERE YOU
MAY WATCH THE
FESTIVITIES.

WANDER OFF
OF THIS FLOOR,
AND YOU WILL BE
EXECUTED
SUMMARILY.

VALUED
GUEST.

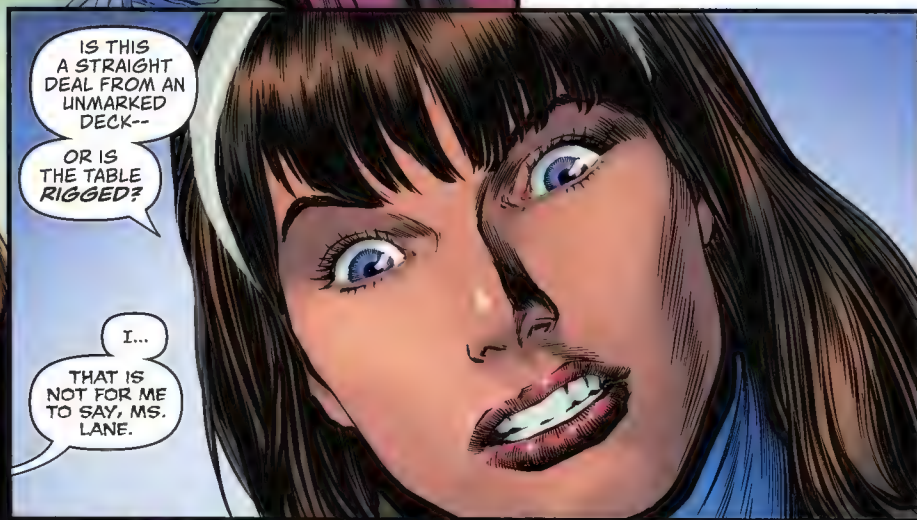


LISTEN, MR.
ALIEN...WAIT.
WHAT'S YOUR
NAME?

I AM
GOOR, MISS
LANE.

GOOR, OKAY.
GOOD. AND IT'S
MS. LANE,
OKAY?

I'VE BEEN
AROUND A LOT OF
FIXED GAMES AND
CROOKED SCHEMES,
GOOR. IT'S KIND OF
MY SPECIALTY.



IS THIS
A STRAIGHT
DEAL FROM AN
UNMARKED
DECK--

OR IS
THE TABLE
RIGGED?

I...

THAT IS
NOT FOR ME
TO SAY, MS.
LANE.

"OUR VERSION
OF 'RIGGED'..."

"...MAY SIGNIFICANTLY
DIFFER FROM YOURS."

"I'M SORRY."



HEY,
HEY, YOU
ALL RIGHT
THERE, BIG
GUY?

YOU HAD
AN AIRCRAFT
CARRIER LAND
ON YOU, JUST
SAYING.

DO YOU
NEED A SNACK?
I HAVE A BIG
BELLY BURGER!



THANK YOU,
CITIZENS.

BUT
I'M AFRAID I HAVE
SOME ATTITUDES
TO CORRECT.

ABOARD LORD GRUNHAR'S SHIP,
THE BUSINESS IS THE WAGER.

AND BUSINESS
IS BOOMING.

I LIKE THE
CREATURE'S SPIRIT. HALF
A BILLION
CREDITS!

VERY
GOOD,
SIR.

HONESTLY,
I CAN'T TELL
THESE EARTH
PEOPLE
APART.

FOUR MILLION
CREDITS ON THE
EARTH MAN.

TECHNICALLY,
SIR, HE'S FROM
KRYPTON.

NEVER
EVEN HEARD
OF IT.

WHILE THE WHALES, THE REAL HOLDERS OF WEALTH IN THE GALAXIES, BET
FROM AFAR, WITH ENOUGH DISTANCE TO AVOID THE SCENT OF PAIN AND INJURY.

FOUR
BILLION
AGAINST THE
EARTH MAN.
NO. FIVE. FIVE
BILLION.

I WISH HE
WEREN'T SO
UGLY, BUT
THREE BILLION
FOR KAL-EL.

HE GOT
LUCKY. OUR
WORLD'S ENTIRE
FARM PROCEEDS
FOR THE CYCLE
AGAINST.

FINE
SPORT,
GRUNHAR.
FINE SPORT
INDEED.

THE BETS
ARE LEANING FOR
THE "SUPERMAN."
GOOR. HOW CAN
THAT BE?

THE
GORATHIAN
EMPIRE HAS
NEVER
LOST.

I...I
CANNOT SAY,
LORD.

HE IS
CHARISMATIC.



ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE'S LANGUAGE IS TRANSLATED SOMEHOW. THE TECH HERE IS IMPOSSIBLY ADVANCED.

THEY'RE BRINGING SUPERMAN HERE FOR THE NEXT CHALLENGE, JIMMY.

RIGHT, BECAUSE WE'RE HIS RING MEN, UH, RING PERSONS, RING PEOPLE--

NO.

I'M GOING TO BE HIS SECOND. THEY'RE WATCHING ME.

YOU NEED TO LIVE UP TO YOUR NICKNAME, "MR. ACTION."

WE OWE THIS TO SUPERMAN, YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT?

"BUT I KNOW WE'RE NOT GOING TO FIND THE WAY OUT OF THIS HOLDING A WHITE TOWEL AND A SPIT BUCKET."

"GO DEEP, SCOUT. SOMEONE'S GOT TO CRACK THIS NIGHTMARE."

HE'S MY PAL. OF COURSE I KNOW THAT.

WHAT'S THE PLAN, BOSS?

I'M NOT SURE.

MS. LANE. IT IS TIME.



MAY THE FATES FAVOR US.

BOY SCOUT!



YOU'LL HAVE TO PARDON MS. LANE'S APPARENT LACK OF DECORUM.

SHE'S A PROFESSIONAL, IN ALL WAYS.

BUT SHE'S ALSO A WOMAN IN LOVE.

LOIS.

I'LL "LOIS" YOU.

FOR LUCK.

I'LL NEED IT.

I MEANT MY LUCK, BIG BLUE.

THEY ARE OTHERWISE ENGAGED.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE NEXT CHALLENGE IS, SUPERMAN?

'FRAID NOT. THE CONTAINER IS LEAD.


OH MY.

DO THE GLADIATORS ALWAYS KISS THEIR SECONDS ON YOUR PLANET?

NO ONE ANSWERS.

I THINK YOU WILL ENJOY THIS, EARTH MAN.

WE WENT TO A LOT OF TROUBLE TO GET IT.




I BELIEVE
YOU CALL IT
"KANDOR"!

TWELVE
DEADLY ARMS,
EARTH MAN. EACH WITH
A SUPERCOMPUTER
INTELLIGENCE.

CAN YOU
SAVE THE
PEOPLE INSIDE,
"SUPERMAN"?

DID I FORGET
TO MENTION
THAT THE ENTIRE
DISPLAY WILL BE
SURROUNDED
BY MY BATTLE
ANDROIDS?

THEY HAVE
RED SUN BATONS,
IT'S ALL VERY
WHIMSICAL.



THERE ARE
THIRTY THOUSAND
SOULS IN THAT
CONTAINER,
GRUNHAR.

I WON'T LET
YOU ENDANGER
THEIR LIVES FOR
YOUR RIDICULOUS
LOVE OF BLOOD
SPORT.

THIRTY
THOUSAND? OH,
NO, IMPERTINENT
ONE.

WE'VE
SWEETENED THE
STAKES.

FOR IF YOU FAIL TO SAVE THEM, WE HAVE CANNONS POINTED AT TWO OF YOUR EARTH CITIES.

FIFTEEN MILLION SOULS AT STAKE.

WHEN THE KLAXON SOUNDS, YOU WILL HAVE THREE SECONDS.

IT MIGHT BE SLIGHTLY IRONIC.

THAT THE ONLY PERSON WITH HEARING ACUTE ENOUGH TO HEAR IT...

...IS ALSO THE PERSON WHOSE HEART SKIPS A BEAT AT THE SHEER WEIGHT OF THE MOMENT.

SUPERMAN...?

FIFTEEN MILLION.

LOIS, THREE SECONDS. I DON'T KNOW--

WHAT IF I...

DO YOU KNOW WHY I BECAME A REPORTER, SUPERMAN?

WH-WHAT?

WHY, LOIS?

IT'S NOT FOR FAME. I KNOW PEOPLE THINK THAT.

IT WAS BECAUSE EVERYWHERE I LOOKED, THERE WAS A PROBLEM I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT.

CRIME, MALFEASANCE, HUNGER, DISEASE, WAR, INEQUITY.

IT MIGHT BE SAID, THIS WAS THE MOMENT.

THE MOMENT ATTRACTION BECAME DEVOTION.

SO THIS WAS MY WAY TO FIGHT. FIGHT IT ALL.

YES.

THANK YOU.

ANY QUOTE FOR THE RECORD, SUPERMAN?

JUST ONE.

I KIND OF WISH I HAD KEPT THAT BURGER.

C'MON,
C'MON. WE GOTTA
SAVE THOSE LITTLE
KANDOR DUDES AND
DUDETTES.

THERE'S
GOTTA BE A
WAY TO TAKE THE
EARTH DOMES OUT
SOMEHOW.

WHAT
WOULD
FLAMEBIRD
DO?

WHO
IS THIS?
HOW'D--

ZEE-ZEE-ZEE!

MY
SIGNAL
WATCH?

IT'S LEX
LUTHOR, MR. OLSEN.
WE HACKED THIS DEVICE
MONTHS AGO.

I'M HERE
TO HELP. WHAT
DO YOU NEED?

YOU
KNOW...

I MIGHT
HAVE AN IDEA
ABOUT THAT.

AND IN THE ARENA,
THE KLAXON SOUNDS.

THREE
SECONDS.

SO
BE IT.

AND THEN,
HE SHOWS
WHAT HE IS.

MAN OF
STEEL.

HEART OF
THUNDER.

I CAN'T
POSSIBLY
DEACTIVATE
ALL THOSE
DEVICES IN
TIME.

DEAR
GRUNHAR.

MEET
THE CAPE
MY EARTH
MOM MADE
FOR ME.

WRRRRRRRR


ONE

TWO

THREE



IT CAME FROM
KRYPTON, DON'T
YOU KNOW.




IN THE ARENA, THE SCENTS OF
OZONE AND CARBON AND TWISTED
METAL ARE DETECTED AS FAR
BACK AS THE NOSEBLEED SEATS.



UNTIL...

IN TIME, THE DEVICES MIGHT
PENETRATE. WHO CAN SAY?

GRRRRRR



SIR, THE
WEAPONS.
WE COULD
AMPLIFY.

AND BE
CALLED CHEATERS
BY THE UNIVERSE,
GOOR?

SHUT IT
DOWN.



THERE IS A HUSH
IN THE ARENA.

AND SOME QUESTION
REMAINS IF SUPERMAN
WILL BE ABLE TO STAND,
LET ALONE FIGHT.

BUT ONE THING IS NOT
IN QUESTION, BY ANY
HONEST OBSERVANCE...

...THAT
HE DID
HIS TWO
WORLDS
PROUD.

YOU
EMERGE
VICTORIOUS,
HONORED
MAN OF
EARTH.

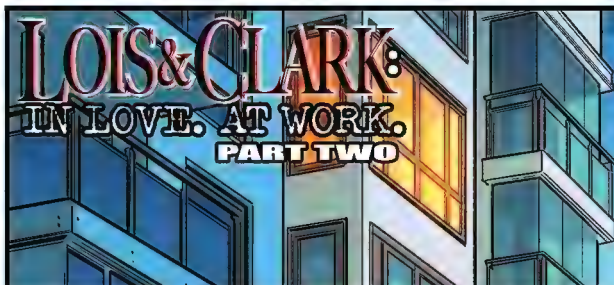
I WILL
HANDLE IT
WITH CARE,
SUPERMAN.
I VOW IT.



"GOOR. GET THE
DAXAMITE.

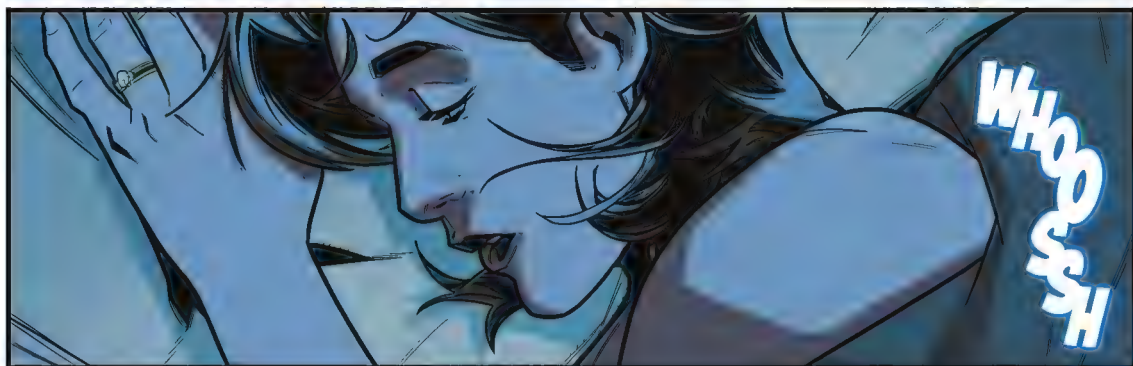
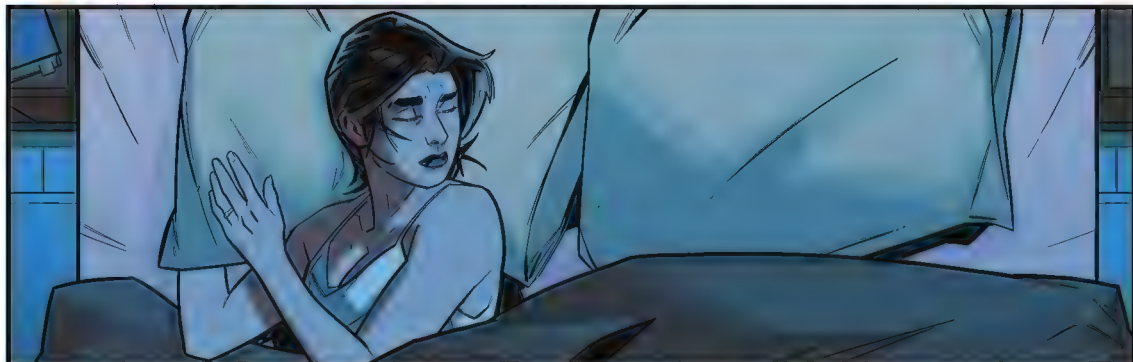
"NOW!"

NEXT:
END OF
GAMES



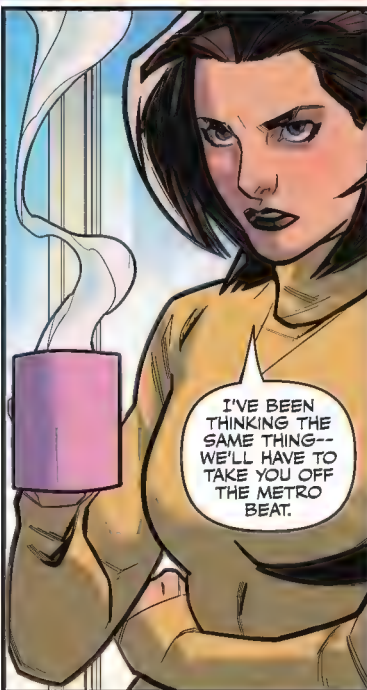
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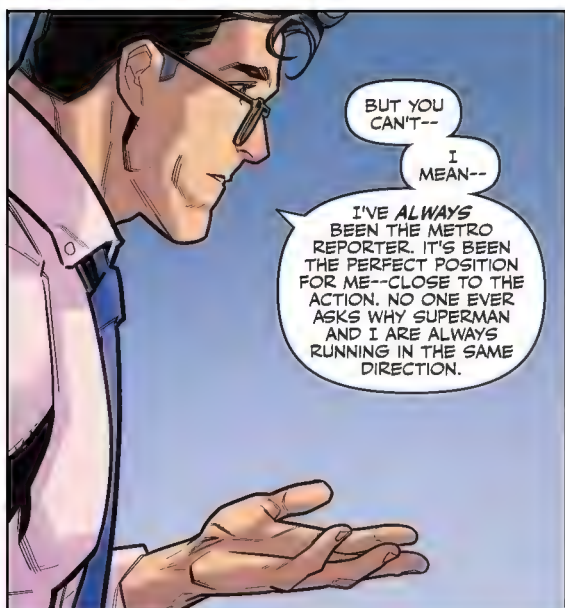


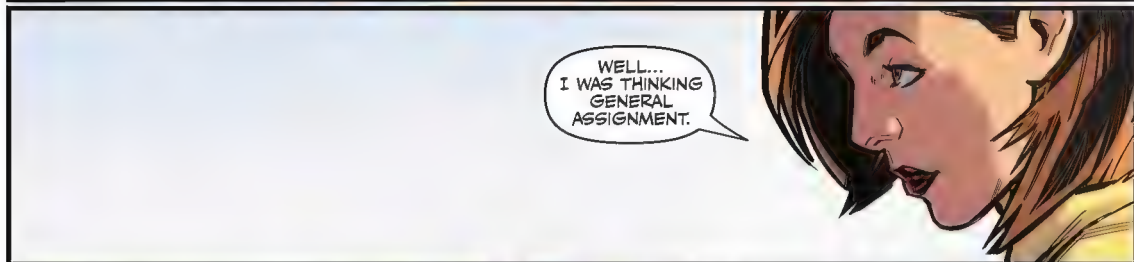


THE NEXT MORNING.

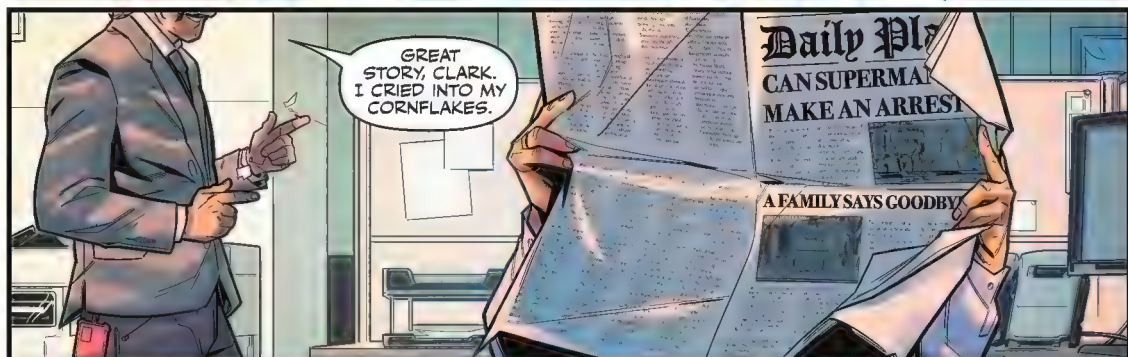
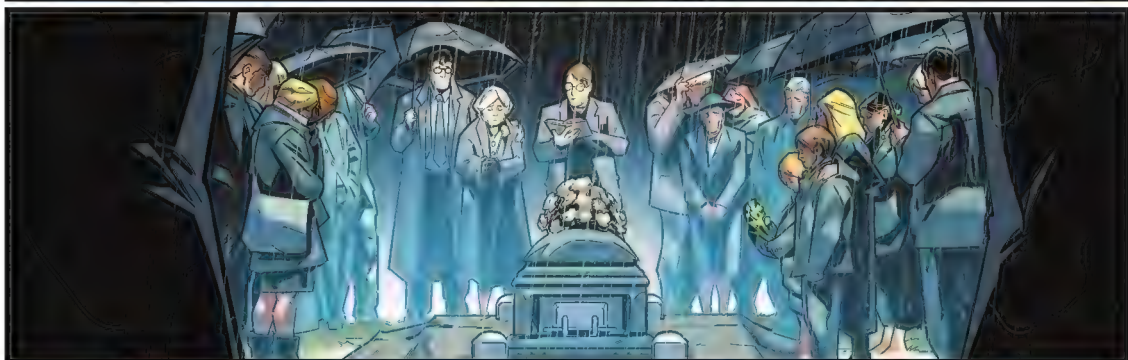
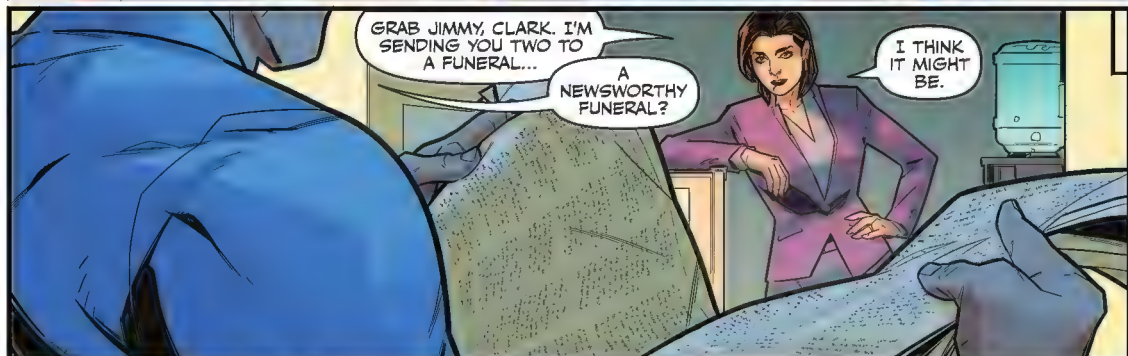
Daily Planet

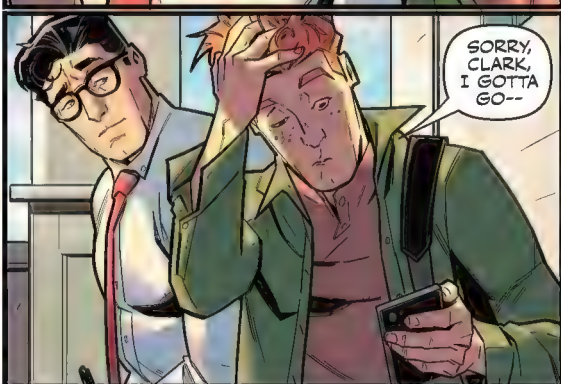
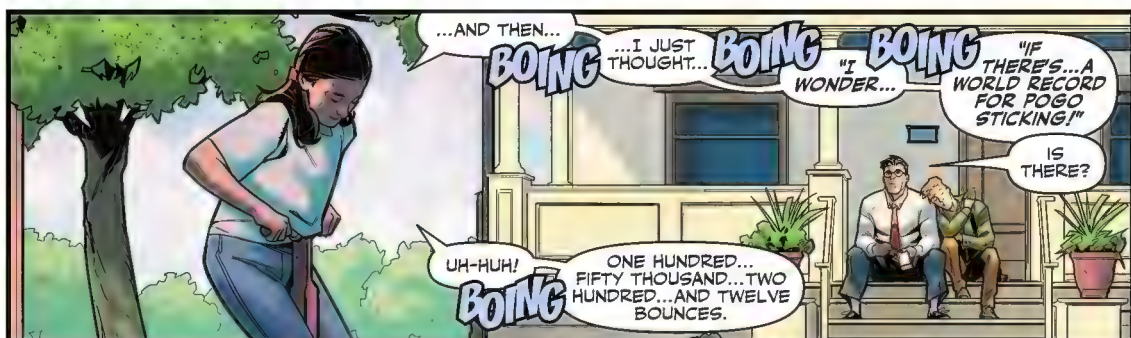




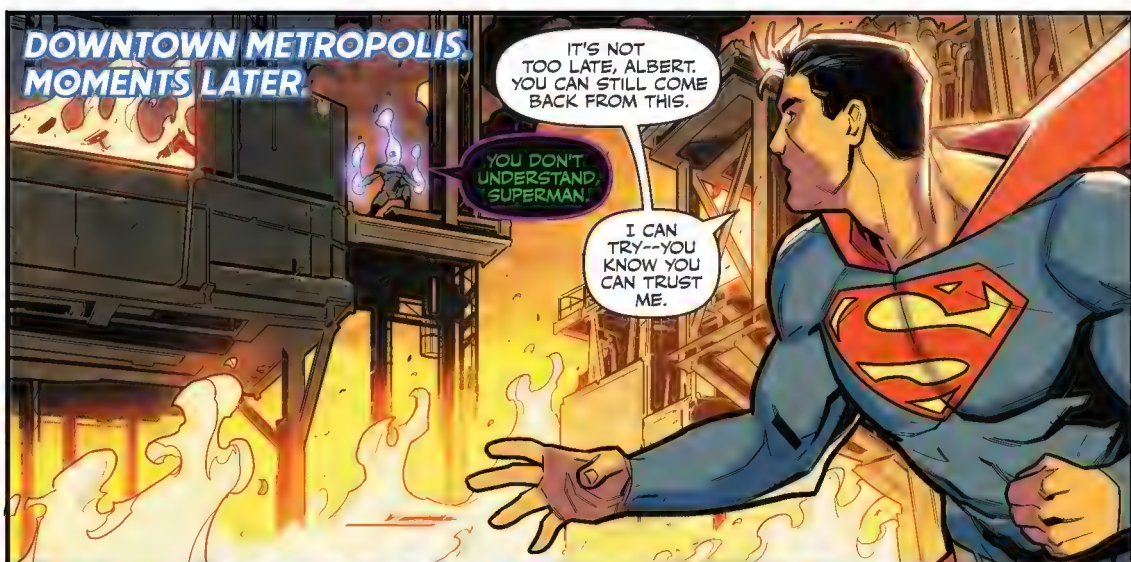








**DOWNTOWN METROPOLIS
MOMENTS LATER**





WHO HAS JOINED THE TRINITY OF EVIL?

ABSOLUTE POWER #2

THINGS GO FROM BAD TO WORSE FOR DC'S
HEROES, COURTESY OF THE SUPERSTAR TEAM OF
MARK WAID and DAN MORA!

AUGUST



TASK FORCE VII
DOMINATES THE DC UNIVERSE!



AUGUST:
ABSOLUTE POWER #2

ABSOLUTE POWER:
TASK FORCE VII #4

ABSOLUTE POWER:
TASK FORCE VII #5

ABSOLUTE POWER:
ORIGINS #2



TIE-INS:

BATMAN #151

GREEN LANTERN #14

SUPERMAN #17

WONDER WOMAN #12

GREEN ARROW #15



THE BLOCKBUSTER EVENT CONTINUES IN SEPTEMBER!

JENNY SPARKS



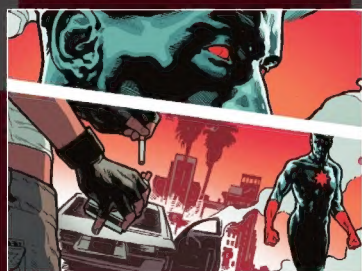
When Captain Atom goes rogue, threatening to destroy the planet he once swore to protect, it'll take one of DC's most unconventional heroes to stop him.

Jenny Sparks, the Spirit of the 20th Century, entered this Earth at the stroke of midnight on January 1, 1900, and hasn't stopped her crusade for justice since. In our world, Jenny Sparks debuted in *Stormwatch* #37, and soon became a fan-favorite character in the revolutionary series *The Authority*.

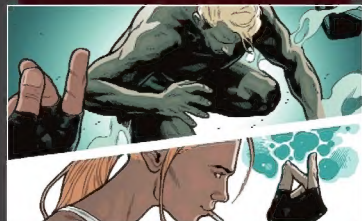
With a snap of her fingers, she can dig into the lives of the most powerful people on the planet and fight back against their corruption. This August, Jenny Sparks is resurrected in the 21st century for a brand-new adventure in a seven-issue DC Black Label series from Eisner Award-winning writer Tom King and rising star artist Jeff Spokes.



King described *Jenny Sparks* as the character's mission to "save five men and women taken hostage by an out-of-control and infinitely powered Captain Atom. Through this lens, we'll explore the grip of Jenny's time on our own; how, despite all our desperate prayers, the sins of our past refuse to die away."



"*Jenny Sparks* is an epic, thrilling, mind-blowing series in the tradition of *Strange Adventures*, *Mister Miracle*, and *The Human Target*," King said. "*Jenny Sparks* seeks to set the bar in superhero comics, to show how our heroes can illuminate and define our moment."



Art featured by Jeff Spokes

DON'T MISS JENNY SPARKS #1, ON SALE THIS AUGUST

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The Last Kryptonian-DCP

